

Swedish ClimateWell a Winner of GE's Ecoimagination Challenge

Swedish firm ClimateWell's "Triple-State" absorption technology for its SolarChillers was a winner in GE's Ecoimagination Challenge. On November 16, GE announced that ClimateWell was one of 12 winners in the first \$55 million round of innovation funding by GE and its venture capital partners, as part of the \$200 million Challenge. It is the only technology on the market to provide solar- or waste-heat powered cooling and hot water with embedded energy storage. The technology enables SolarChillers to charge when energy is available, and deliver steady cooling and heating energy from fluctuating sources of heat such as solar collectors or waste heat from diesel generators, industrial processes or cogeneration installations. SolarChillers can be retrofitted into existing HVAC systems and used for industrial, commercial and residential use. They can produce up to 3 tons of refrigeration (TR) cooling power, and 10 to 50 TR or more by bundling several units. (One TR is approximately 12,000 BTU.) ClimateWell's technology powers air conditioning and zero electricity heat pumps used in over 200 installations in Europe and the Middle East. GE is now working with ClimateWell on deploying this technology in additional markets through GE's appliance business.

Swedish Energy Agency, European Union and DOE host EU-US Workshop on Electric Vehicles

The US-EU electric vehicles workshop conceived in November 2009 when Sweden co-chaired the first meeting of the US-EU Energy Council was held on November 19 in Brussels. The goal was to have a tangible, problem-solving exchange among experts rather than just another conference. To do this, the Swedish Energy Agency, DOE/EERE and the European Union gathered equipment suppliers and manufacturers, utilities, policymakers, standards organizations, and government agencies and focused them on near-term actions to accelerate introduction of electric vehicles to the market, especially government policy and cooperative efforts to spur vehicle demonstration and deployment.

Vattenfall Invests in North Sea Wind Farm

Swedish energy group Vattenfall and Germany's Stadtwerke Munchen (SWM) will invest about one billion euros to build an 80-turbine offshore wind farm some 70 kilometres off the German island of Sylt. Building will start in 2012 and be completed in 2014. The farm will have a capacity of 288 megawatts, enough to power to 500,000 households. Swedish state-owned Vattenfall will hold 51% of this joint venture, while SWM holds 49%. In September, Vattenfall inaugurated what is currently the world's largest offshore wind farm off the English coast.

Skanska Receives U.S. Green Building Council's 2010 Leadership Award

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) gave its 2010 Leadership Award to Swedish construction firm Skanska for its development of the design and construction of green projects. Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair of the USGBC, cited Skanska as a prime example of a company with worldwide reach that incorporates "environmental stewardship into its mission without compromising its international success."

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